



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/624,047	07/21/2003	Jeffrey R. Schoer	S572-002-PAT	5927
7590	10/07/2005		EXAMINER	
Angenehm Law Firm, Ltd. P.O. Box 48755 Coon Rapids, MN 55448-0755			KEENAN, JAMES W	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3652	
DATE MAILED: 10/07/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	SCHOER ET AL.	
10/624,047		
Examiner James Keenan	Art Unit 3652	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) The drawing(s) filed on 21 July 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: ____.

Art Unit: 3652

1. New corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in this application because they are informal in nature. Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsperson outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.
2. The specification and declaration both incorrectly refer to the provisional application 60/398,032 as being filed 7/23/2003 rather than 7/23/2002.
3. Claims 1, 3, and 20 are objected to because of the following informalities:
 - in claim 1, line 5, "a" should be inserted before --material--;
 - in claim 3, line 1, "a" should be deleted;
 - in claim 20, line 1, "(1)" should be deleted, and line 8, "a" should be inserted before --material--.Appropriate correction is required.
4. Claim 12 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. The limitations set forth in claim 12 simply repeat verbatim language previously recited in claim 1.

Art Unit: 3652

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barrett (US 2,293,486) in view of Sukup (US 5,520,495), Roth (US 6,092,974) and Ehlers (US 6,425,725).

Barrett shows a bulk dispenser in which a vehicle body 14 is divided into a plurality of compartments each having a gate 24 such that material in each compartment can be emptied onto one end of a conveyor 30 which is mounted to a trolley that moves longitudinally along the vehicle to position the conveyor relative to the gate of a desired compartment.

The compartmented body of Barrett is integral with the vehicle chassis, rather than having separate boxes mounted on separate frames with alignment and locking means.

Ehlers shows a similar apparatus wherein separate boxes 23 are mounted on frames 26 of a flat bed vehicle, such that material in the boxes can be selectively emptied therefrom by a conveyor. The frames include legs 28, rails 30, and alignment and locking means 25, 38, etc.

Barrett also shows the conveyor receiving material directly from the gated compartments rather than employing a separate chute joined to the frame and selectively connected to the box and trolley.

Roth shows a flat bed vehicle which receives boxes of bulk material to be dispensed therefrom into chute 64, but the chute is not movable.

Sukup shows a similar vehicle for dispensing boxes of bulk material, including a conveyor mounted for longitudinal movement along the vehicle and having a chute 70 selectively movable to a position in which it receives material from the boxes.

It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified the apparatus of Barrett to include frames for holding boxes of bulk material and a chute movable to positions between the conveyor and the boxes, as jointly suggested by Sukup, Roth, and Ehlers, as these would simply be well known design expediencies which would allow the apparatus to be used for other bulk products such as boxed seed.

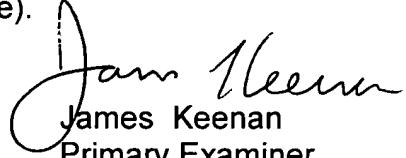
7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James Keenan whose telephone number is 571-272-6925. The examiner can normally be reached on (schedule varies).

Art Unit: 3652

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eileen Lillis can be reached on 571-272-6928. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



James Keenan
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3652

jwk
10/3/05